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REDUCTION OF STRANGULATED HERNIA BY THE EXHAUSTING PUMP.

THE use of the air-pump, as an agent in the reduction of hernia, was first noticed, we believe, by Professor Hauff in the year 1818. Hufeland's Journal for July, 1832, also contains some remarks by Dr. Busch on the same subject. Finally, the No. of Hecker's Journal now before us contains several cases, which we shall notice briefly.

**CASE I.**—In October, 1833, the author, Dr. Kohler, was called to a Jew, sixty years of age, who had suffered the last nine years from scrotal hernia. After some days of a fit of indigestion the patient began to suffer from pain in the abdomen, and the hernia could not be returned even by a surgeon; the symptoms were now rapidly aggravated, and the author on his arrival found the patient in a state of great danger. According to the account of his attendants, the hernia was strangulated for three days; the face was now sunken; the body covered with a cold sweat; the extremities cold; the pulse barely perceptible. No stool for the last three days. The author had immediate recourse to all the common remedies, venesection, cold applications, narcotics, enemata, baths, drastic purgatives, &c. without any effect; the danger was most pressing, and nothing seemed left but the operation; however, the exhausting pump was tried as a last resource. Immediately after the application of the apparatus, which was placed over the abdominal ring, the operator began to perceive some gargouillement in the hernia; this gave encouragement, and in a short time, to his great pleasure, the parts were restored to their natural position. Alvine discharges were obtained in a few hours, the vomiting ceased, and the patient was restored to health in a few days.

**CASE II.**—In January, 1834, a female, sixty years of age, was affected with inguinal hernia on the right side, and sudden femoral hernia on the left side; it was impossible to return this latter; symptoms of strangulation soon set in, and the necessity of an operation was agreed on in a consultation of surgeons. The air-pump was applied. After the first application, a little gargouillement; after the second, partial return of the gut; after the third, complete reduction of the hernia.

Professor Janekowski has communicated a very remarkable case to the author, of which the following is an abstract:—

**CASE III.**—The patient, a strong healthy woman, fifty years of age, perceived the first trace of an umbilical hernia about two years before. The tumor had acquired some size before she experienced any remarkable symptom; it was then partially reducible, and the pains in the abdomen and swelling were alleviated by opening medicines. After the lapse

of about a year the tumor became suddenly the seat of intense pain ; there was obstinate constipation for six days, which only yielded to general bloodletting and purgative enemata. On the sixth day inflammation set in, and terminated in abscess of the integuments. At the end of August the patient was attacked a second time with inflammatory symptoms, which now assumed so severe a character as to threaten her life with imminent danger. The hernia could not be reduced by any of the ordinary means, though seconded by venesection and repeated purgative glysters. On the third day the tumor became excessively painful and hard, stercoral vomiting supervened, and a fatal termination seemed almost inevitable. The air-pump was now applied, but at first produced a great deal of pain ; however, it was removed after a short time, and the taxis was now practicable with the greatest facility. In a few hours copious evacuations were produced, the symptoms of strangulation subsided, and three days later the patient was perfectly cured.

In addition to the cases which we have just quoted, the author details six others, where the air-pump was employed with equal advantage, and adds that in twenty-three cases, the greater part of which were desperate, the means now alluded to did not fail to justify his confidence ; he therefore concludes, by expressing a hope that a remedy of such power may meet the general consideration which it deserves.—*Lancet.*

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#### TEMPERATURE OF THE HUMAN BODY.

ON the 10th of August last, MM. Breschet and Becquerel communicated to the French Academy of Sciences the results of various experiments made by them on the temperature of different parts of the human body in various diseases. In the instrument used by them, a perfectly constant temperature is kept up in one point of the needles for 24 hours, while it is at the same time furnished with a very sensible regulator. The following are a few of the results. The degrees given are of the centigrade scale.

No. 1.—A man, thirty-seven years of age, laboring under typhous fever, complicated with bronchitis ; pulse 116. Temperature of the mouth, 39.65 ; of the biceps muscle, 38.80.

No. 2.—A man, twenty-four years of age, affected by enteritis with bronchitis ; pulse 116. Temperature of the biceps muscle, 39.50.

No. 3.—A scrofulous child in a well-marked febrile state. Temperature of the mouth, 37.50 ; of an inflamed scrofulous tumor, 40.00 ; of a phlegmonous tumor in the cellular tissue, 40.00 ; of the biceps muscle, 40.00.

No. 4.—A woman, thirty years of age, affected with a tumor of the same nature. Temperature of the mouth, 36.75 ; of a scrofulous tumor on the neck, 37.50 ; of the biceps muscle, 37.00 ; of the adjacent cellular tissue, 35.00.

No. 5.—A female with cancer of the breast. Temperature of the mouth, 36.60 ; of the cancer, 36.60 ; of the exuberant fungi, 36.60 ; of the biceps muscle, 36.60.

No. 6.—In a young man in high fever. Temperature of the biceps, 38.90.

No. 7.—In a young man attacked with scrofulous caries of the bones of the foot. Temperature of the mouth, 36.50 ; of the biceps muscle, 37.50 ; of the wound, 32.00. (In this case the needle passed through the cellular tissue of the plantar fascia.)

No. 8.—A man, forty-nine years of age, affected with hemiplegia of the left side, and presenting the commencement of senile gangrene in the inferior extremities. Temperature of the biceps on the healthy side, 36.45 ; on the injured side, 36.60 ; of the mouth, 36.40 ; of the muscles of the calf on the sound side, 36.60 ; on the paralyzed side, 36.60.

No. 9.—A woman, forty-five years of age ; the inferior extremities engourdies and painful after paralysis ; pulse 84. Temperature of the biceps, 37.14 ; of the adductors of the thigh, 37.55.

No. 10.—In a man, sixty years of age, affected with mercurial tremor. Temperature of the biceps on the right side, where the tremor is most marked, 37.04 ; on the left side, 37.15.

No. 11.—Case of abdominal dropsy, with affection of the heart. Temperature of the biceps, 37.05 ; of the fluid in the abdomen, 36.85.

No. 12.—A man with confluent smallpox, a few minutes before death ; pulse 114. Temperature of the biceps, 35.85 ; of the hand, 32.00.

The authors observe, that if we remember that the normal temperature of the muscles is about 36°, we shall find,—

1. That the febrile state is attended with an increase of heat which may go as far as 3°.

2. That scrofulous tumors, though violently inflamed, do not present a much greater increase of temperature.

3. That cancer does not present anything remarkable, except, perhaps, a slight depression of heat in all the parts explored.

4th and finally. That in paralysis we do not find any very sensible difference between the temperature of muscles on both sides of the body.

*Ibid.*

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#### DR. BELL'S PRIZE DISSERTATION ON DIET.

[Continued from page 236.]

SUCH are the principal anatomical data, on which can be founded an opinion on this point of the natural history of man. Naturalists have evidently been predetermined to make him, by the rules of natural science, an omnivorous animal. To arrive at this, however, they seem rather to have been forced to jump to a conclusion, than to arrive at it by a legitimate deduction. Whilst the most distinguished in Europe, as Cuvier, Lawrence, Blumenbach, Richerand, Marc, &c. have recorded their acquiescence in this opinion, they as uniformly acknowledge that man is strikingly analogous in bodily structure to the simiae, and as these are in their natural state undoubtedly frugivorous, it must be that their conclusion in regard to his omnivorousness is deduced from the circumstance of observation and experience of the species over the greater portion of the globe, rather than a strict inference from the data of natural history. This

structure we believe proves only that he is neither decidedly carnivorous or the contrary ; he is also far from being omnivorous, if by that term he is considered as possessing the structure or powers of both flesh and vegetable-eating animals, since he is probably gifted with those of neither. It is true he feeds on all the productions of nature, but not in manner analogous to that of the brutes.

Whilst we believe and contend that the general practice of man in using both animal and vegetable food, in a prepared state, as is the almost uniform practice of all nations, is neither contra-indicated by natural structure or experimental result, we can freely allow that man does approximate more closely to the frugivorous animals than any others in physical organization. But the only conclusion which ought to be drawn from this similarity is, that he is designed to have his food in about the same state of mechanical cohesion, requiring about the same energy of masticatory organs as if it consisted of fruits, &c. alone.

Animals by a brute instinct will select, each species, a kind of food adapted to its capacity of digestion ; man has a digestive apparatus which is evidently designed neither for the use of animal flesh in its recent state or unchanged by the action of fire, nor in a state of putrefaction. His organs are evidently too complex and extended for the latter aliment. They are fitted for animal food *prepared by his reason*. In short, he was designed to be governed in his food as in everything else, not by instinct, but by his reasoning faculties. These have pointed out to him the general fact that neither animal nor vegetable substances are his appropriate food, till modified by preparation and cookery.

What we apprehend to be the true doctrine on this subject is, that his reasoning powers, enabling him to subject and subdue nature to himself, as far as food, habitation and clothing are concerned, and having in a thousand ways such an immediate influence on his bodily existence, forbid any very confident judgment or conclusion being formed in relation to him, from any real or supposed analogy to the other species of animals. He constitutes a species *sui generis*, far removed from all others. The chain of beings, or regular gradation of animals, stops, at least, when it reaches him. The visionary theories of a Monboddo, or the philosopher of Geneva, in regard to the identity of orang-outangs and man, the existence of wild men, or those not under the influence of the reasoning faculties, &c. alike groundless and insulting to the human species, hardly deserve mention, much less refutation. They only prove, as Mr. Lawrence remarks, that these schemers were equally ignorant of the structure of men and monkeys. And yet how much less absurd are the opinions of those, who would subject "the lord of the creation" to rules and laws drawn from the habits of the monkey tribe ?

If man is considered only as a superior kind of monkey, placing, as must be done, the African races as the immediate connecting link between him and the simiæ, and continuing the progression up through the less darkly tinged races to the polished European, then would the analogy be grounded on premises apparently philosophical.

Mr. Lawrence remarks on this scheme of gradation—"We should not have expected to find such opinions defended by the natural historian, and we shall not hesitate to assert that they are as false philosophically,

as the moral and political consequences to which they would lead are shocking and detestable. We set out with this position, that man has numerous distinctive marks, by which under every circumstance of roughness and uncivilization, and every variety of country and race, he is separated by a broad and most clearly defined interval, from any other animal, even from those species which from their general resemblance to the human subject have been called anthropo-morphous."

For a full, philosophical and unanswerable elucidation of the distinctive differences between man and animals, the reader is referred to the physiological writings of William Lawrence, F.R.S. &c.

If, considering, as our modern Pythagoreans do, that man is by nature an exclusively vegetable-eating animal, and that therefore in our practices we should endeavor to act as to food without reference to reason, to shake off the trammels of education and habit, and to return to the customs of the golden age, will not the entire preparation of food by fire be legitimately deemed to be unnatural and preposterous? No animal surely practises the culinary art. Nor is there any nation of even their vaunted vegetable eaters, which does not more or less practise the unnatural art of subjecting their rice, or potatoes, or grains, to roasting or boiling, or which does not render them even more dissimilar from their original state by the more complex processes of pounding, grinding, &c. or the qualification of condiments.

It is a maxim in logic, that what proves too much proves nothing. If it is unnatural to eat flesh, it is equally unnatural to cook vegetables, for both or their principles are the results of reason and not of natural instinct. Still more we transgress against the natural habits of animals when we resort to clothing. Does climate render the use of external clothing essential, why may it not render the use of stimulating and supporting animal food necessary? If the almost hairless simia or naked man can live without clothing in the regions of the torrid zone, in the frozen regions of the pole they must either violate nature and resort to external coverings, or cease to be inhabitants of its icy dominions. Man, by his reason, can counteract these imperfections of nature—or if that be too presumptuous an idea, can cure the wounds he inflicts on his own nature; he can render himself the denizen of all latitudes by his ingenuity in clothing and habitation, thus protecting his external structure; why not, then, by strengthening and guarding his internal organization by dietetic means (if these are necessary), adapted to the circumstances in which he may be placed?

How far, then, diet is influenced by climate as shown by the experience of mankind, and how far this influence is founded on true principles, is next to be considered. Do we ever find mankind living in a state of nature?\* Considering him an herbivorous or frugivorous animal, and their habits as the standard of nature, assuredly not. He is everywhere

\* The terms *natural state*, *original condition*, &c. of man, so much employed by the advocates for an exclusively vegetable diet, we can hardly be allowed to suppose denote a state of barbarism. They would scarcely be willing to consider the influence of reason in producing a state of civilization, and overturning almost all resemblance between man and the brutes, to have been unnatural.

If, again, by *natural state of man* is meant the infancy of society, then "mankind were probably almost wholly carnivorous," remarks Professor Dunglison (*Physiology*, Vol. I. p. 441), "as the tribes least advanced in civilization are at the present day." Or more probably his food depended on his location or other accidental circumstances.

a *cooking animal*, and this term would perhaps be as well adapted in forming a definition of the *bipes implumis*, as Franklin's appellation of a *tool-making or bargain-driving animal*. Giving it up, then, as hopeless, even to conjecture what he would be, if following the customs of the animals exclusively eating raw vegetable substances, how can we so well deduce conclusions as to what mode of life befits him, as to appeal to the evidence of experience, and to examine his comparative health, longevity, bodily and mental vigor, and mental characteristics, as we find them displayed under varied circumstances of existence.

There are hardly any substances which have been possessed of organization and life (and these alone have the properties of nutriment), which have not been employed at some time and in some countries as food. Amongst the various circumstances and peculiarities in relation to aliment, if there has been any one which has been general in all nations, it is the preparation of their food by fire. Some exceptions even to this rule are not wanting.\*

"The researches of Meiners," remarks Mr. Lawrence, " respecting food, seem to have exhausted every accessible authority on the subject. His deductions, supported by an almost infinite number of quotations, exhibit so complete a view of the matter, that we present them to the reader in his own words :

" The common positions concerning the earlier use of vegetables, and the effects of vegetable and animal food on the dispositions of people, have been brought forward by men not acquainted with all the facts which history presents. There were formerly, and still are, many people, particularly among the dark-colored nations, who eat nothing or almost nothing but flesh, and that with little or no preparation. Examples of this are offered in Asia by the Huns, Calmucks and people of Thibet ;—by the Burates, Tungooses, Kamschatkans, and eastern islanders ;—by the Ostiaks and Samoiedes, whom the Russians were obliged to imitate in Nova Zembla and the eastern ocean ;—by the Woguls, Circassians, Mingulians and Abcassas ; and, lastly, by some tribes in Babylon. In Europe by the Alani, all the Celtic people, the Tartars of the Crimea, and even the inhabitants of St. Kilda. In America by the Esquimaux, the Greenlanders, the North American savages, the Peruvians, and the inhabitants of Terra del Fuego. In Africa by the Ethiopians and Gallas. In the southern countries and the islands of the South Sea, by the New Hollanders, New Zealanders, and the inhabitants of the Friendly and Society Islands."

" On the contrary, there have been and still are many people who live almost exclusively, or wholly, on vegetables. Such are the Cretans, Spartans and Romans at certain periods ; most of the Slavonic tribes, the Turks, Arabians, and Persians ; the Mahomedans, and still more the

\* Examples are adduced of nations using certain mineral substances as food, or perhaps rather instead of aliment, as this term can hardly be applied to those substances from which no chyle can be formed. "Kessler," remarks Prof. Dunglison (Human Physiology, Vol. I. p 438), "affirms that the quarriers on the Kyffhauser, in northern Thuringia, spread a *steinbutter*, or *rock butter* (Jameson) on bread, which they eat with appetite. Labillardiere also relates of the inhabitants of New Scotland, that they are accustomed to eat a soft greenish kind of *steatite*, which he says serves to allay the sensation of hunger by filling the stomach. Vanquelin analyzed some of this, but was unable to extract anything nutritive from it. Long ago, Gunilla observed that the Ottomiques and Guanos were in the habit of eating a kind of clay alone or with other substances. This practice was observed also by Humboldt."

Brahmins in Hindostan ; the Chinese, Japanese, and certain of the Javanese ; most of the Otaheitans and inhabitants of the Marian Islands ;—lastly, the Egyptians, Moors, Negroes, Hottentots, and inhabitants of Sennaar."

These instances, while they afford abundant confirmation, if evidence were wanting, of the omnivorousness of man, at least in his present state, can only be regarded as extremes or exceptions to the general law. The food of a great proportion of the inhabitants of the globe is unquestionably an admixture of animal and vegetable substances, and on examination of many of the instances of the exclusive use of one or the other, it will be found to be dependent on peculiar adventitious circumstances, rather than on any original, instinctive propensity for either. The exclusively flesh-eating people will be found to be natives of those regions whose cold and sterile soil is incapable of producing the fruits of the earth. Whilst in some of the vegetable-eating countries, the mode of life in this respect is in consequence of religious dogmas, as illustrated for example in the immense nations of the east (in the same manner that with the ancient Pythagoreans it was an absurdity of their philosophy, the belief of metempsychosis) ; in others, as in Ireland, many parts of the continent of Europe, and probably also in some of the oriental countries, it results from a necessity, the over-crowded state of the population, which brings man down to the minimum of food capable of sustaining existence. From the statistical researches made in 1790, by the celebrated Lagrange, and brought up to a late period by M. Moreau de Jonnés, in a memoir to the Academy of Sciences, it is shown that France does not produce one-half the amount of the flesh of animals necessary to the nourishment of the inhabitants.

In referring to such a statement of the aliment used by various nations, as that given above from Meiners, we are struck on examination :

1. With the nearly equal health, longevity and vigor of all these nations. The general average of the length of human life is nearly the same ; the appointed bourne of "three score years and ten," seems almost universal. The able writer on longevity in Rees's Cyclopaedia, arrives at the general conclusion, reviewing the catalogues of those recorded for longevity, that no characteristic applies to the individuals therein, but that of temperance in eating and drinking. Of course the quantity, rather than any peculiarity of the food, constitutes temperance.

2. The next general observation from this sketch, is, that as we go from the equator to the poles, the food of man changes from a preponderance of vegetable, to that of animal ; and that in the temperate latitudes, except in such instances as that of Ireland, explained by obvious circumstances, the aliment is uniformly of a mixed nature, comprising both animal and vegetable substances.

Two circumstances in the natural history of man seem to have a necessary connection between them ; viz. his having the power to inhabit the various regions and climates of the earth, and his being able to subsist on almost or quite all organized substances, or, as Dr. Copland remarks, he must be naturally omnivorous, as a consequence of his ubiquity. "If the wastes of Lapland, the shores of the Icy Sea, the frozen coasts of Greenland, and the deserts of Terra del Fuego, were destined

by nature for the habitations of man, then is he not an herbivorous animal, nor is even a mixed diet necessary to his support. It would be impossible to procure vegetable productions where the earth's surface is almost constantly either frozen or covered with snow. The continual use of animal food is as natural and wholesome to the Esquimaux, as a mixed diet is to an Englishman."

In the cold regions, the abstraction of the stimuli of solar light and heat, and the continued low temperature, have a tendency to diminish the powers of life, the energy and tone of the muscular and nervous systems. Here a compensatory addition to the vital energies is required, which is best afforded in the use of an invigorating and stimulating diet of animal food.

A similar equilibratory process from opposite reasons is demanded in the tropical regions, between the constitutional condition of man and his food. In the temperate zone, the same reasoning and the same experience which fix the expediency of animal food in the cold, and vegetable for the hot climate, demonstrate the fitness of a mixed aliment for the inhabitants.

Dr. Copland has carried the view of this connection between man and the soil he inhabits, into many interesting bearings, relative to his food, medicinal agents, &c. for which the reader is referred to his Dictionary of Practical Medicine, Art. Climate, in relation to the food of man. He concludes his article in the following words : " From these and other considerations, the following corollaries may be drawn ;—that the climate of a country should in a great measure guide man in his selection of food; those productions which are most abundant around him, being most appropriate to the circumstances in which he is placed, and that the nature of his food thus conspires with the climate to modify his constitution, whilst it serves to counteract the rigors of season, and the unwholesome influences to which he is constantly exposed, in very hot as well as in very cold countries."

Our modern Pythagoreans have endeavored to argue that the use of animal food has a tendency to render men savage and ferocious in their dispositions, drawing this conclusion from the analogy of brute animals. The slightest, most cursory examination of the schoolboy's compend of geography or history dispels this visionary idea, and demolishes to the foundation all their Utopian structures, based on restoring the golden age, by leading men back to a diet of " acorns and the crystal stream." Not to multiply examples to sustain a position so obvious, suffice it to remark, without recurring to ancient history, that Hyder Ali, and Tippoo, " his more terrible son," Ali Pacha of Yanina, and a host of oriental tyrants, were frugivorous animals !

It has been customary for these bigoted exclusives to bring forward a few instances of men eminent for transcendent genius and worth, as proofs that a vegetable diet is *alone* consistent with the possession and exercise of great talents and virtues. A more palpable *non sequitur* never disgraced logic. While they instance a Newton, a Howard, a Franklin, and some half dozen others, as examples of their rule (and of even the habits of these, some more specific accounts might not be amiss, as to

their perseverance in an exclusively vegetable diet), they forget [that these are only exceptions to a long list of great and renowned names.

" If the experience of every individual were not sufficient to convince him that the use of animal food is quite consistent with the greatest strength of body and mind, the truth of this point is proclaimed by the voice of all history. A few hundreds of Europeans hold in bondage the vegetable-eating millions of the east. We see the carnivorous Romans winning their way, from a beginning so inconsiderable that it is lost in the obscurity of fable, to the empire of the world ; we see them, by the power of intellect, establishing that dominion which they had acquired by the power of the sword, and furnishing such compositions in poetry, oratory, philosophy and history, as are at once the admiration and despair of succeeding ages ; we see our own countrymen rivalling them in arts and arms, exhibiting no less signal bravery in the field and on the ocean, and displaying in a Milton and Shakspeare, in a Newton, Bacon, and Locke, in a Chatham, Erskine and Fox, no less mental energy ; yet, with these proofs before their eyes, men are actually found, who would have us believe, on the faith of some insulated, exaggerated and misrepresented facts and still more miserable hypotheses, that the development, form and powers of the body are impaired and lessened, and the intellectual and moral faculties injured and perverted, by animal diet."\*

We have no disposition to go " ultra crepidam " in vexing the theological arguments, which at least one learned professor adduces in support of his views, against the use of animal food ;—or to discuss the question whether the shortening of human life was the result of man's folly in thus overstepping the laws of his nature. Enough for us, is it to know, that we have the best evidence for the belief that the term of human life has been for some thousands of years the same, and shall content ourselves with the ancient avowal of the psalmist : " The days of our years are three score years and ten ; and if by reason of strength, they be four score years, yet is their strength labor and sorrow, for it is soon cut off and we fly away."† Having thus, as we conceive, cleared the way for a practical consideration of our subject, we dismiss an investigation perhaps needlessly protracted, surely so except from the considerations alluded to, in the words of Ovid :

Inter utrumque tene  
— medio tulissimus ibis.

If it were or could be demonstrated that man is strictly an herbivorous, or a carnivorous animal, one only precept as to his food and drink need be urged upon him, and that would be to follow nature, and return as speedily as possible to the original manner of life from which he has departed. But as we have shown that man is intended to be governed by his intelligence, in cultivating, in preparing, in cooking and otherwise modifying the fruits of the soil and the flesh of animals, so as from their natural state to fit them for his use, such simplicity, however pleasing to the supposed discoverer (and in truth over-simplification and too hasty generalization are the loud crying sins of our modern philosophizing), is

\* Lawrence, Rees's Cyclop. Art. *Man.*

† Psalm xc. See also II. Samuel, xix. 32 et seq. " Now Barzillai was a very aged man, even four score years," &c.

not in accordance with that grand touchstone of "law and fact" in medical science, *experience*. The truth seems to be, in the language of Dr. George Fordyce, "man has no natural food."\* He may indeed have

\* Professor Mussey, of Dartmouth College, N. H. in a lecture delivered during the session of the Legislature of New Hampshire, and repeated in other States, is reported to have brought forward the interesting, and well known and authenticated history of Caspar Hauser, as detailed by M. Von Fuerbach, as illustrating and defending the principle that man is by nature an exclusively vegetable-eating animal. Caspar, when first brought from his state of confinement into society, was struck with horror and disgust at the sight and smell of flesh or cooked meat. This repugnance was hardy to be combatted with, it was so overwhelming, nor was it, at the date of the biography, overcome. Granting the fact, and there is no rea-on to doubt it that we are aware of, and what does it prove? Merely that Caspar was from infancy trained up on a vegetable diet. It can demonstrate only, what no one can hardly think of denying, that the human subject is capable of being supported in vigor and health, on vegetable food exclusively—especially if, as in Hauser's cases, no exercise was taken nor any vicissitudes of season encountered.

As an offset to this case, we will attach here the account of another wild boy, which if any addition were needed to its authenticity beyond the names connected with, and referred to, in it, we could give it in our own knowledge of the circumstances, derived from intelligent gentlemen, when the writer was at the South a few years since.

"*Wild Bill, or the Mississippi Orson.*"—[From the *Knickerbocker*.]—It was the lot of that wonderful person, Caspar Hauser, to be emancipated and tamed among a people every way disposed to note all the peculiarities of a mind permitted almost to reach maturity before it had received the impress of a single effort at training it. This training was then undertaken, by instructors, excited by an enthusiasm of curiosity to trace the first manifestations of his mind under its new series of impulses. Of course, we have in his case the most impressive chapters upon the influence of the magnificent universe—the green earth, the sun and moon in the blue heavens, and the grandeur of the starry hosts, when first shown to him. We have a novel and most striking history of mind under the first impressions of external nature, and the first lights of instruction.

"The annexed and unpretending narrative lays no claim to virtues of this sort. Wild Bill, it is true, was thrown among a people humane and civilized; but they were pressed by the numberless and imperious necessities incident to a new settlement in the wilderness. Their condition was too full of labor, care, and danger, to admit of the exercise of curiosity. Thus they were less disposed to mark the first movements of his mind, after he had been caught and the process of training of society was commenced upon him. In a forest full of Indians and wild animals, Wild Bill was an object of very little higher interest than a tamed bear or panther. Of course, no documents remain to show how he was impressed by the new views which society presented to his mind. I have even been unable to ascertain whether any efforts were made to place him at school, or under the influence of any other instruction and training than that of the new circumstances in which he was placed.

"Although his story may not claim parallel interest with the eloquent history of mind in the case of Caspar Hauser, it may, nevertheless, present one claim to attraction—it is literally a matter of fact, without the slightest admixture of coloring of any sort—and within the knowledge of citizens of the highest standing in Mississippi and Louisiana. Judge Butler, of the latter State, is capable of furnishing many more details than I have been enabled to obtain. Although I have heard the oral statements of many persons who have seen the subject of the narrative, I am indebted mainly for the facts it contains—with which the statements referred to uniformly agree—to one of the first planters in the parish of Rapides, in Louisiana. He became a temporary resident at Woodville, a considerable village in the interior of Mississippi, in 1811. Here he first saw the boy called Wild Bill, who then resided with a Mr. Benjamin Rollins. He had at that time made so much progress in learning to talk, that he was quite intelligible. It is believed that he had then been taken about eighteen months or two years.

"He was secured in the Mississippi swamp, not far from the present site of Pinckneyville. The circumstances that led to his being taken, were these: Some settlers, who had recently settled in that vicinity, saw on the margins of the swamp the prints of the naked foot of a boy. This led them to closer observation; which soon discovered to them a naked boy, walking with the gait and the manner of a hunting animal, on the shore of one of the lakes that abound in that region. His object was to catch frogs—a species of hunting at which he seemed very expert. When he had caught them, he devoured them raw. The discoverer attempted to approach him; but as soon as the

instincts and propensities, if not blunted or perverted, sufficiently strong and intelligible to prevent his interfering very materially with his healthful condition. It will be, it is believed, generally found to be true, that that mode of life or kind of aliment which experience proves detrimental, is at first repulsive to the taste or instinct of man. It is only the conventional customs of society which bring about a change, subverting the

wild lad saw him, he fled with the usual terror of an untamed creature at the sight of a man, towards a lake, into which he plunged—diving and swimming with the ease of an amphibious animal. These occurrences naturally excited much interest among the settlers; and they collected in body to make an united effort to take him. After hunting for him for some time, they at length discovered him under a Persimmon tree, eating the fruit. As soon as he observed his pursuers, he fled as before, doubling the bush like a fox, and making again for the water. Excusing themselves by the motive, the hunters adopted their usual expedient for catching animals; they put their dogs on the trail of the strange game. The dogs soon tired him down, and brought him to bay. Though no metaphysicians to form mental theorems out of the case of their new conquest, they discovered that the two-legged, unfeathered creature, had the natural instinct of fight—for he made battle upon dogs and men with the full amount of courage and ferocity that might be expected to result from his age and physical strength. But although he fought like any other animal, he was compelled to yield to numbers, and was fairly caught and bound. He was then, it is supposed, not far from nine years old—naked, and perfectly speechless. His form was slender, but well proportioned and capable of extreme agility. His eyes were brilliant; his hair sandy, and his complexion florid; a circumstance which may be accounted for, from his having lived almost entirely in the deep shades of the forest. Woodville was the nearest considerable settlement, and thither he was carried for the experiment of domestication.

"Eighteen months or two years after his capture—the period, as I have said, when my informant first saw him—he had still no look indicative of his name. He was yet wild, although he could now make himself understood. It was more difficult to overcome his appetite for raw flesh, than to learn him to speak. The love of the excitement of alcohol, seems to be another common appetite of the man of nature; for he soon manifested an unconquerable longing for spirits in any form—especially when rendered very sweet—upon which he became intoxicated whenever he had an opportunity. Whether he discovered the usual development of the other animal propensities, my informant does not know; but he always remained a wild animal in the fierceness of his temper. When playing with lads of his age, the moment his passions were roused in any way, his first movement was to strike them with whatever instrument was nearest at hand. After this partial domestication, they attempted to put him to work: but he showed a truly savage disrelish for labor. He was sure immediately to run away; generally making for the town, where his amusement was to mount on horseback whenever he was allowed the opportunity. Riding was his passion; and he would mount every horse in a livery stable in succession, merely for the pleasure of riding them to water. In other respects he was quick and intelligent. His appearance was rather agreeable and in his favor.

"The training which he received was either unfavorable to good moral development, or it had been originally denied him by nature; for he became quarrelsome, addicted to drunkenness, and not at all a lover of the truth. Consequently, a great deal of doubt and uncertainty must rest upon his history of his early recollections; though they were so often repeated, and so nearly in the same form, as to have gained credence with those among whom he lived. He stated that he had a dim remembrance of coming down the Mississippi with his father's family in flat boat—that his father killed his mother—and that he fled in terror into the swamps, expecting that his father would kill him also; and that from that time he had subsisted on frogs, animals and berries; living in warm weather among the cane, and in cold weather in hollow tree.

"It is extremely unfortunate that so few details remain of the domestication and character of Wild Bill; though it is hoped that this imperfect account may call forth from the persons with whom he lived and died, ampler and more satisfactory information respecting him. It is believed that he died when at the age of 18 or 19; that is, near the year 1818, after a domestication of about nine years. Alas! the uneducated and untrained Man of the Woods is but a kind of forked, standing animal, very little superior to what we call the lower animals, and in many respects far below them. And viewing the mass, even in the highest state of freedom and civilization—seeing them so readily and wilfully the victims of their ignorance, their prejudices, and, more than all, their

natural relations (supposing such to exist, as is most probably the case) between the qualities of food, and the impressions made by them on the senses. The original appetite thus cannot be distinguished from the desire connected with the association of ideas, and the influences of habit. We can trace this acquired relish for objects at first almost, perhaps wholly, repulsive and disgusting, in the use of alcoholic stimulants, high-seasoned food, narcotics, as tobacco, &c. Again, in individuals, the most agreeable objects of taste may become repugnant, nay, even unwholesome, from association.

Nature and instinct being thus inadequate to guide man in his choice and preparation of aliment, or rather being subverted by mental influences, habit, &c. he is forced to appeal to experience to afford him rules by which he is to be governed in his food. It is the results of this experience (some better and some worse founded), which writers have given to the world in their volumes on diet generally; and their principal errors have been in drawing their conclusions from too limited a number of facts, and in too minute and subtle distinctions as to the wholesomeness of individual articles.

[To be continued.]

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#### CASE OF INSUSCEPTIBILITY TO THE EFFECTS OF MEDICINE.

*To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.*

SIR,—The following case, should it be considered novel or interesting, you are privileged to dispose of in a manner most to your satisfaction.

A. H., of middle age, of temperate habits, from the State of New York, on a visit to his friends in Connecticut, felt so much indisposed

own supposed knowledge and illumination—seeing, too, how easily and universally they become the stupid instruments of unprincipled, ambitious demagogues, one is almost driven to adopt the painful and humiliating maxim of Dean Swift, that man is not a reasonable animal, but only capable, under certain circumstances, of becoming such."

"*Note to the above.*—During our residence in Mississippi, we had frequent opportunities of seeing Wild Bill, as he was called; and the above account, with few exceptions, is correct. He was caught in the summer of 1808—and was first seen among a gang of wild hogs, which protected him as one of their number, and with which he associated and slept; and when the dogs were first put after him, his swinish friends formed a circle around to protect him, as they do to guard their weaker ones from similar attacks. The writer is mistaken in respect to his death. He was alive in 1825, and we have not since heard of his death. At that time his mind appeared wholly incapable of cultivation. To an entire stranger, his language was unintelligible, consisting of a kind of gibberish, understood, with ease, only by those intimately acquainted with it; indeed, to us, he appeared almost an idiot. He was an untameable creature, often found around small ponds, catching frogs and eating them raw. It was with great difficulty he could be compelled to wear any kind of clothing or come under restraint.—*Editor Shield.*"

This case certainly approximates much more closely to the *homo naturæ* than that of Caspar Hauser. Instead of being shut up in a closet with playthings, learning to speak and even to write his name, with his food brought to him prepared and in abundance, our Mississippi Orson was situated precisely like the wild animals who were his associates. And under these circumstances, we are as to his diet informed that he was at first discovered expertly catching frogs, which he devoured raw; afterwards under a Persimmon tree, eating the fruit: and, lastly, we are told that it was more difficult to overcome his appetite for raw flesh, than to learn him to speak.

We are far from adducing this illustration from any wish to defend the doctrine of Helvetius and others, that man is by nature carnivorous. Deductions of general principles from single or limited instances, have, as was before observed, been the bane of medical reasoning.

that he called on me. On my inquiries, I found that his health had been declining since August last, at which time he called on a physician, who gave him a dose of calomel, and followed it with some mild laxatives. The bowels were obstinate. After the operation, however, he felt relieved, but not well. His indisposition, he thought, was occasioned by excessive fatigue and heat. I prescribed some alteratives, with a view to change the biliary secretions, remarking to him that a mercurial course would in all probability be the most sure, and advised him on his return to call on a physician for that purpose. The day following, I was summoned to see him early in the morning ;—found him laboring under the most severe pain in the epigastrum, which was paroxysmal ; pulse slow and soft.

Expecting a case of bilious colic, I gave him twenty grains of calomel, and directed that a tablespoonful of castor oil be given every hour, to commence in three. In the evening, I found he had taken nine tablespoonfuls of oil, which had staid down. The pain in the bowels the same. Directed him to take a drop of croton oil in slippery elm, and in half drop doses for the four hours following—and castor oil as the stomach would retain it, with cathartic injections occasionally. I visited him again in the morning, and found him comfortable, pain abated, sitting up, and smoking his pipe. I gave him three drops more castor oil for the day. Visited him again in the evening ; patient still comfortable, no motion. Gave him six drops of croton oil for the night, together with seventeen doses of Hull's pills, which in Fairfield county, by the credulous, are considered a specific in like cases. Injections frequent, and drastic—no movement.

Called in the morning, at 10 o'clock ; the stomach quiet, not having vomited for the last twenty-four hours. He had taken nine drops of croton oil, together with other physic. I commenced with *Hahnemann doses*—viz. forty grains of calomel and three drops croton oil. Left him nine drops more, to be taken in three drop doses—once in three hours. He took three drops more in three hours, and, sufficient to say, he discharged after it, in due time.

The amount of physic taken—one drachm of calomel, fifteen drops croton oil, one pint castor oil, seventeen doses Hull's pills, two ounces salts, two ounces senna ; enemata every once in three or four hours, of the most active kind, tobacco not excepted.

*Sherman, Ct. Nov. 9th, 1835.*

D. W. NORTHROP.

N. B.—The croton oil used was of the best quality. The patient got well and returned home.

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CASE OF TRIPLETS.

*To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.*

A MRS. C—, in this vicinity, was recently delivered of three live children ; two daughters and one son. If the information will be of any service to those who make an estimate of the average number of double or triple births, you are at liberty to communicate this through the medium of your useful Journal.

A. J. SPENCER.

*Westport, N. Y. November 9th, 1835.*

## BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

BOSTON, NOVEMBER 25, 1835.

## PRACTICAL PHRENOLOGY.

SOME of the proof sheets of a new work, entitled "Practical Phrenology, illustrated with Engravings, by SILAS JONES," have been kindly left for our inspection. From the limited opportunity we have had of examining them, we predict a favorable issue. There is much plain common sense pervading the text, which is decidedly more than can be safely said of about one half of the phrenological nonsense that has been palmed upon the world. Mr. Jones is no stranger in the northern States, and has nothing to fear from those who are best qualified to appreciate his services by a personal acquaintance with the man. There are some new things advanced in the book, and many old theories repeated, together with some hacknied facts and stale metaphysical trash, served up so invitingly, and in such good taste, too, that it would be ungenerous not to wish the author success in the sale, and an increased reputation from this sensible exhibition of talent, industry and research.

## PEPPERELL INSTITUTION FOR THE INSANE.

To the old conveniences for the medical treatment of the insane, in the picturesque and delightful town of Pepperell, Mass. Dr. Cutter has added another edifice, which is represented to be well contrived within, and beautiful in its architectural proportions externally. From small beginnings, he has finally raised the reputation of his establishment to an enviable distinction. We were informed, a day or two since, that there were twenty-five patients now under his care. This gentleman is admirably calculated, morally and physically, for managing these unhappy and dependent beings. From a long personal acquaintance with Dr. C. we are warranted in saying that he is deserving of all the reputation he enjoys. To the friends of those suffering from the various forms of mental derangement, who are unwilling to place them in regular insane hospitals, located in the environs of the principal cities, we recommend Dr. Cutter's private establishment as eminently entitled to their patronage and confidence.

## DULL PROFESSIONAL TIMES.

It so happens, occasionally, that we are exceedingly perplexed. The present week happens to be one of those dull times in an editor's life when he finds it extremely difficult to provide anything new or satisfactory to himself, and therefore apprehends the mortification of wholly disappointing and displeasing his readers, who have been accustomed to something more profitable than the complaints of one for whom they can feel but a remote sympathy. The times are dull for us—nearly all the medical schools in the United States, in which a vast amount of talent is concentrated, being now so actively engaged in daily lectures that we are deprived of the services of many gentlemen who are registered among

our most attentive correspondents. To this it may be added that our exchange journals, both foreign and domestic, are uncommonly barren. These are so many apologies, which we feel it a relief to make in excuse for ourselves, under the pressure of these dull professional times.

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*Mass. Charitable Eye and Ear Infirmary.*—At the annual meeting of this institution, held on the last Thursday of October, the surgeons of the Infirmary reported the whole number of applicants for the year ending Oct. 28, 1835, to have been 708. Patients laboring under diseases of the eye, 582; diseases of the ear, 126. Of the 582 cases of diseases of the eye, 442 have recovered; 23 have been relieved; 19 declined treatment; 27 result not known; 17 incurable; 3 removed; 2 not cured; 10 not treated; 39 remain under treatment. The whole number of cases which have been treated since the institution commenced, is 7,530.

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*Neuralgic Affection simulating Hydrophobia.*—Dr. McCarthy, of England, records the case of a soldier in the 70th regiment, who experiences regularly, every spring, an attack strongly resembling hydrophobia. When ten years of age, in the month of January, he was bitten in the hand by a dog supposed to be mad. The wound became very sore and festered. After being cauterized by a surgeon, it was tormented by the application of various ointments, but at the end of three weeks it cicatrized. In the following May he was attacked with what was pronounced to be hydrophobia, accompanied with convulsive fits, but recovered in about a week. He has since experienced a similar attack every spring, and sometimes in the autumn, though robust in the intervals. Dr. McC. found the patient bound down to his bed with sheets twisted round his legs, body and arms. He was in a convulsive fit, struggling violently, howling and barking like a dog, and attempting to bite at everything placed near his mouth. A blast of cold air, or the sprinkling him with any fluid, aggravated the fit. This attack, like his former ones, was cured by bleeding and purging.

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*Medical Degrees in Dublin.*—The axe has lately been laid at the root of the tree in the old, demi-celebrated medical institution in Dublin, by which it is clearly shown that the board of faculty are a corporation of perfect spongers—squeezing the last shilling from the pockets of those young aspirants for degrees, who have the enduring patience to dance attendance on these high and mighty descendants of *Æsculapius*. Dr. Macartney, the Professor of Anatomy, receives an income of £1400 per annum for his talk, besides a share out of the luck fund. Dr. Stokes, whose critical remarks on many common diseases have been extensively published in this country, has been complained of for having all the questions he asks candidates for degrees, written down. Dr. Allman is represented as a coarse, morose, forbidding medical despot. Mr. Warburton's microscopic observations on the internal condition of the medical schools in England, Scotland, and Ireland, have brought to light a system of gross frauds and imposition, intolerably bad—even beyond endurance.

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“*Medical Researches, or original Memoirs in Medicine, Surgery, Physiology, Geology, Zoology, and Comparative Anatomy,*” by Dr. Richard Harlan, of Philadelphia, is in press in that city.

*Operations at Mass. General Hospital.*—On Saturday, the 14th inst. there were two operations. One was for hydrocele, and the other an extirpation of a scirrhouus tumor. Operator, Dr. Hayward.

On the 21st, the operations performed were—1st, for purulent ophthalmia, by dividing the vessels. 2d, fistula in ano. 3d, a child about four years of age was operated upon in consequence of the following singular misfortune. The patient, a boy, had been severely burned, and by some neglect (the abrasion being on the right side), the arm, almost down to the elbow, grew to the side of the body. The operation consisted simply in separating this unnatural connection. Dr. Hayward operated in the two first cases, and Dr. Warren in the last case. All the patients appear to be doing well.

**M. Vernois** lately presented to the Anatomical Society of Paris a section of the facial nerve effected in the aqueduct of Fallopius by an old caries of the bone. The patient had been affected with complete loss of movement in the muscles of the face on the same side, but the sensibility remained intact.

*Geneva Medical College.*—It is said that there are sixty students, the present lecture term, at this institution.

**Dr. William P. Dewees** has resigned his professorship in the University of Pennsylvania.

**To CORRESPONDENTS.**—Dr. Jewett's Midwifery Cases will be inserted in the No. for next week.

Whole number of deaths in Boston for the week ending Nov. 21, 80. Males, 39—Females, 41.

Of measles, 29—consumption, 9—typhous fever, 4—convulsions, 3—suffocation, 2—dropsy, 3—dropay on the brain, 3—burn, 1—brain fever, 1—childbed, 1—croup, 1—dysentery, 1—dropay on the chest, 1—disease in the head, 1—hooping cough, 1—drowned, 1—intemperance, 1—inflammation on the lungs, 1—intflammation of the bowels, 1—infantile, 3—lung fever, 2—old age, 3—quinsy, 1—scarlet fever, 2—syphilis, 1—throat distemper, 1—teething, 1—tumor in the head, 1—unknown, 2. Stillborn, 4.

## ADVERTISEMENTS.

### VACCINE VIRUS.

**PHYSICIANS** in any part of the United States may hereafter be furnished with pure vaccine virus, by addressing the editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal—*inclusoing one dollar.* Letters must be post-paid, or they will not be taken from the Post Office. The virus will invariably be sent by the first mail, unless some other mode of conveyance is directed. Ten charged quills, an ample quantity for meeting any sudden emergency, and certainly sufficient to propagate a supply from, will be securely packed in a letter. The gentleman who has undertaken to keep the virus, will faithfully supply that which is positively genuine and recently taken. It will also be furnished on application at the Medical Journal office.

### A STAND FOR A PHYSICIAN.

A PHYSICIAN in the State of Maine, in a pleasantly situated, small, flourishing village, about 25 miles from Portland, wishes to dispose of his stand. Being a very eligible stand, and affording abundant practice, it offers a good opportunity for a physician to establish himself. For further particulars, apply to the Editor of the Journal; if by mail, post-paid.

Sept 23—3m

### AN EXCELLENT CHANCE FOR A PHYSICIAN.

A PHYSICIAN in one of the western counties of New Hampshire offers to sell his stand, situated in a pleasant and flourishing village, and no other physician within five miles. For further particulars, inquire of the Editor of this Journal, or of Dr. Richards, of Claremont, N. H.

Oct 7

THE BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL is published every Wednesday, by D. CLAPP, JR. at 184 Washington Street, corner of Franklin Street, to whom all communications must be addressed, *post paid.* J. V. C. SMITH, M.D. Editor. It is also published in Monthly Parts, on the 1st of every month, each Part containing the weekly numbers of the preceding month, stitched in a cover.—Price \$3.00 per year in advance, \$3.50 after three months, and \$4.00 if not paid within the year.—Every seventh copy, *gratis.*—Postage the same as for a newspaper.